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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/397,578	09/16/1999	KEVIN PORTER	RIC-99-006	8934

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WORLDCOM, INC.
TECHNOLOGY LAW DEPARTMENT
1133 19TH STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

BUI, BING Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2642

18

DATE MAILED: 02/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/397,578

Applicant(s)

PORTER ET AL.

Examiner

Bing Q Bui

Art Unit

2642

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11-17 and 23-25 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 18-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-25 are pending in the present application for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

2. Claims 1-4, 6, 10 and 18-19 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lung et al (US Pat No. 6,292,549) in view of Gechter et al (US Pat No. 5,274,700), herein after referred as Lung and Gechter.

Regarding claim 1, with respect to Figs 1-3B, Lung et al teach the invention substantially as claimed, a method for implementing a call in a telecommunications network comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to forward calls directly to a first destination such as one of telephone sets 140 to a second destination such as another telephone set of the telephone sets 140 (Abstract; Figs 1 and 3B; col 8, ln 4-14).

Lung fail to explicitly teach the method of contacting the second destination to obtain an approval for forwarding calls to the second destination. However, Gechter teaches a method of contacting a destination device (second destination) to obtain an approval for forwarding calls to the destination device (second destination) (see col. 19, lns 6-28 or col. 20, lns 23-39). Therefore, integrating Gechter's teachings into the call forwarding system of Lung would have been obvious for providing the forwarding-to destination more control in deciding whether or not to receive the call.

Regarding claims 2-3, the steps of denying the request to forward calls when the approval is not obtained and granting the request to forward calls when the approval is obtained are found in Lung (col 9, ln 1-15).

As to claims 4, 18 and 21-22, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth to rejecting claim 1 above, since claims 4, 18 and 21-22 are merely a system for implementing the method defined in the method claim 1.

Regarding claims 6 and 10, Lung teaches the first and second destination are telephone sets (Abstract and Fig 1, elements 140).

Regarding claim 19, Lung teaches a call forwarding, wherein the switch is a private branch exchange (PBX) (col 2, ln 4548).

3. Claims 5 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lung (US Pat No. 6,292,549) in view Gechter (US Pat No. 5,274,700), and further in view of Solomon et al (US Pat No. 5,361,295), herein after referred as Solomon.

Regarding claims 5 and 20, the combined system of Lung and Gechter does not explicitly teach the telecommunications system includes an interactive voice response (IVR) unit that generates a voice message for requesting the approval. However, Solomon teaches an intelligent peripheral I/P (IVR) that plays a caller's message to a target subscriber and have the target subscriber decides whether or not to accept a call forwarded to him or her from the I/P (col 11, lns 20-55). Having the cited art at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include an intelligent peripheral I/P (IVR) that plays a caller's message

to a target subscriber and have the target subscriber decide whether or not to accept a call forwarded to him or her from the I/P, as taught by Solomon , in order to provide more flexibility to the caller-ID subscriber in recognizing the caller.

4. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lung (US Pat No. 6,292,549) in view of Gechter (US Pat No. 5,274,700), and further in view of Yamadera (US Pat No. 5,444,477), herein after referred as Yamadera.

Regarding claims 7-9, the combined system of Lung and Gechter teach the invention substantially as claimed with the exception of providing first destination and second destination are computer systems which have capabilities of placing and receiving a call, respectively. However, Yamadera teaches the first destination and second destination are computer systems which have capabilities of placing and receiving a call, respectively (Abstract; Fig 1, elements 101-105 and col 2, ln 34-48). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate computer systems which have capabilities of placing and receiving a call, as taught by Yamadera , into the system of Lung for providing more flexibility in communication implementation.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 11-17 and 23-25 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

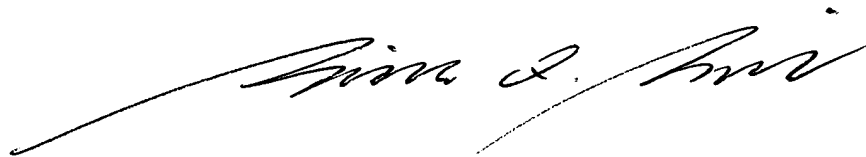
6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bing Bui whose telephone number is (703) 308-5858. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar, can be reached on (703) 305-4731. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 and for formal communications intended for entry (please label the response "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE") or for informal or draft communications not intended for entry (please label the response "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Feb 03, 2004



**BING BUI
PATENT EXAMINER**